U.S.FOREST SERVICE ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

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P. V. WOODHEAD, Regional Forester, By:

S, CONTROL, Insect, R-3 - Annual Report - C.Y. 1945

The Forest Supervisors' annual reports on forest insect damage and reports from individual Forest officers traveling through the Region indicate that forest insect damage was normal during the 1945 season, except as shown in the following:

No control projects were carried on during the 1945 season.

Barkbeetles (Dendroctonus, Ips and Pityophthorus)

All forests of the region report that damage from Dendroctonus barkbeetles was normal during the year. The Carson Forest reports the infestation of Dendroctonus ponderosae Hopk., reported during 1942 and 1943 in the Agua Caliente drainage within the Carson Forest and on the Rancho del Rio Grande Grant, was normal again in 1945. Only an occasional sorrel-topped tree was found on the area. Evidence of the Black Hills beetles was observed on the Jicarilla Division of the Carson, but the evidence appeared several years old and no evidence of current damage was found.

Reports from the Kaibab Forest indicate that conditions in regard to Dendroctonus ponderosae Hopk. barkbeetles are normal in the forest north of the Grand Canyon. This is the area where a heavy infestation of the Black Hills beetles occurred during 1923-1926.

The Lincoln reports that ponderosa pine timber is dying on an area along the south side of Capitan Mountain. An examination of the area indicated that the trees dying are not in groups; that they are overmature, scattered individuals. The examination also showed the presence of Dendroctonus and Ips barkbeetles. This same area was heavily hit during 1924, 1925 and 1926 by an infestation of Dendroctonus barberi. This area is a poor timber site where tree growth is small and scrubby. Control work is not recommended at this time; however, the area should be checked during the early summer to determine if the barkbeetles are increasing.

During August areas of spruce were examined in the head of Pot Creek drainage on the Rancho del Rio Grande Grant. One group of four trees was found with the tops still green, but on close examination the boles were found to be completely girdled by the spruce barkbeetles. A number of old group kills were observed in the Alamitas Canyon drainage near the head of the Rio Pueblo River. This last area is located on national forest lands. These areas should be examined again during 1946.

Some spruce barkbeetles were observed in the spruce stands located in the upper drainages of the Little Colorado River on the Apache Forest. This area should be checked over during the 1946 field season to determine if the spruce barkbeetles are increasing.

Ips: Many of the forests report some Ips damage to groups of small poles and reproduction on the sawtimber cutting areas in the ponderosa pine type. This damage was, however, about normal during the year. In places, the Ips attacked and killed some pinon pine near the limits and within the sawtimber sale areas. These attacks were also about normal during the year.

Pityophthorus: An infestation of Pityophthorus was reported in 1943, near the Arizona-New Mexico State line on the north end of the Luna Ranger District. The insects were identified at that time by Dr. M. D. Wygant. Many of the groups of ponderosa pine, which were attacked in 1943 and 1944, have a ragged appearance, but there is little or no mortality in the groups. From observations, it appears that the infestation has ceased to spread and in general is decreasing.

Pinon Pine Tip Moth (Dioryctria sp.)

The Carson Forest reported in 1944 an infestation by an unidentified tip moth in pinon pine stands in the vicinity of Taos Junction. This infestation was reported as severe during 1944. Forester David O. Scott collected specimens of twigs from these pinons and reared specimens of the moths and parasites, which were sent to the Bureau of Entomology for identification. The moths were identified "Dioryctria sp. Phycitidea) var. (?) of zimmermani (Grt)" by Mr. Carl Heinrich, and the parasites were identified "Microdontomerus sp. and Tetrastichus sp." by A. B. Gahan. These moths have not been observed or reported at any other location in the region. No control is recommended.

Ponderosa Pine Tip Moth (Rhyacionia sp.)

Damage from ponderosa pine tip moth in ponderosa pine was about normal during 1945.

Spruce Budworm (Cacoecia (Archips) fumiferana Clem.)

Spruce budworm infestations are reported from the Carson, Cibola and Santa Fe forests. The Carson reports that spruce budworms are found quite generally throughout the fir and spruce stands on the forest, especially on the Tres Piedras, Vallecitos, Rio Pueblo and Taos Ranger Districts.

The infestations were reported as epidemic in 1944, but not so heavy in 1945. The Cibola Forest reports infestations of spruce budworm on the Sandia and Mt. Taylor Ranger Districts, with the heaviest infestations occurring on the Sandia District. The Santa Fe Forest reports infestation of spruce budworms fairly heavy on the Pecos Division and lighter in the fir and spruce stands on the rest of the forest. In general, the spruce budworm infestations in the region are above normal for the past 10 years.

Aspen Leaf Roller (Archips conflictana Walker)

The Carson and Santa Fe Forests report infestations of the aspen leaf rollers in the aspen stands. The Carson reports a decrease in numbers since 1944, but still in epidemic stage in the Upper Borracho, El Rito, upper Red River, upper Rio Pueblo and upper Lama Canyon drainages. There are also a few scattered areas of aspen infested on the Rancho del Rio Grande Grant. The Santa Fe Forest reports leaf roller damage fairly heavy in the Aspen Basin area during 1945. The infestation in the Frijoles area of the Jemez Mtn. Division was very light during 1945. Aspen leaf roller damage was observed on the Cibola and Apache Forests during 1945. The damage on these forests was light.

Great Basin Tent Caterpillar (Malacosoma fragilis)

The Carson and Cibola Forests report some damage from the Great Basin tent caterpillar. The Carson reports the number continues to decline in the San Antone Mountain area of the forest. No other infestations, old or new, was observed on the forest during 1945. The Cibola Forest reports a heavy tent caterpillar infestation on the south side of Mt. Taylor during 1945. The Santa Fe Forest reports that the tent caterpillar attacks have definitely subsided in the aspen areas in the vicinity of Santa Fe. This applies also to the rest of the Santa Fe Forest. No survivors of the Tachina fly or Calosoma beetle which were liberated in the aspen stands in Big Tesuque Canyon during 1942, were found during the past season.

Matsucoccus Scale

The Prescott Forest reports again that damage from Matsucoccus scale was fairly heavy on some areas of the forest during the spring of 1945, but only light damage appeared later in the season. The Lincoln Forest has just reported an infestation of Matsucoccus acalyptus scale attacking pinon an an area of about 640 acres on the south side of East Capitan Mtn. The scale has defoliated the pinon and the kill of trees appears to be rather heavy.

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Insect damage to the forests of the Region during the past year is in general considered below normal, except that of the spruce budworm which may be increasing to some extent. The damage by Dendroctonus engelmanni to the spruce stands may increase during the next year as there appears to be an increase of beetles above normal during the past year.

No inspections or examinations were made in the Region during 1945, by entomologists from the Bureau of Entomology.

RCSalton:ASG

QUINCY RANDLES